

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Nation bid farewell to a true American hero as General Hugh Shelton retired as Commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The General wore our nation's uniform for 38 years, and America owes him a special debt of gratitude for his unsurpassed leadership as our senior military officer.

As America prepares to wage war against terrorism, we should thank General Shelton for his dedication to duty and professionalism. He is a soldier's soldier, an inspiration to U.S. military personnel, and someone who has earned the respect and admiration of all of his fellow Americans.

General Shelton was born in the small town of Speed, North Carolina. He graduated from North Carolina State University in my congressional district and previously commanded the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg and the Army's Special Operations Command. He is truly North Carolina's favorite son.

Madam Speaker, to honor General Shelton, I have introduced H.R. 2751, the General Hugh Shelton Congressional Gold Medal Award. This bipartisan bill will bestow a fitting tribute to this superior warrior and great American. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

HONORING FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 42, a resolution to honor our fallen firefighters.

The events of September 11 highlighted the hard work and dedication of many emergency personnel. Many of us watched the pictures on the evening news of men and women walking into burning buildings carrying injured people to safety and retrieving bodies beneath the buried rubble.

Today, after those recent terrorist attacks and the rescue efforts that ensued, it seems especially poignant and timely that Congress pass a resolution as a memorial to such acts of heroism.

Firefighters are the first persons to respond to any emergency. They are ambassadors of courage, wisdom, and heroism.

In my home State of West Virginia, there are many dedicated firefighters who put their lives on the line each year. Between 1981 and 1999, West Virginia has lost 25 firefighters in the line of duty. Honored in last year's ceremony was Arch Russell Sligar. This year we will honor Robert Cowey Brannon. Those are just two names of the many men and women who have lost their lives.

Madam Speaker, in light of the recent demonstrations of bravery by the

New York and Washington area firefighters, as well as the endless acts of service and sacrifice of all firefighters, I urge passage of the resolution, and that we will be lowering our flags to half-mast every October 7 in their honor.

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SUPPORT THE CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Centers for Excellence program and other health professions. The President's budget for the year 2002, Madam Speaker, has called for a drastic 60 percent reduction in these Health Resources and Service Administration health programs.

The HERSA agency, in addition, has announced this week that they would be also limited to only \$12 million for this program for the year 2002, a significant decrease. According to the Health Education Program Act, the first \$12 million is set aside for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Thus, in order to continue the Hispanic and native Americans and other programs, we urge an increase in the existing budget for the Center for Health Care Services, which is at \$30 million.

The Centers for Excellence programs are essential and still needed to help increase the number of minorities in the health professions throughout the country. The program has a proven track record of producing and graduating more minority students than any other schools. So we encourage and we ask our fellow colleagues to support the \$30 million that we have had in the past. Hispanics now represent 12 percent of the population; and we need additional nurses, so we ask for my colleagues' support.

HONOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS BY FLYING FLAGS AT HALF-STAFF

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the unanimous support of my colleagues for H.J. Res. 42. This resolution simply requires Federal Government entities to fly the American flag at half staff on Sunday, October 7.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to extend this extraordinary honor in conjunction with the annual memorial service in honor of fallen firefighters by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in the district I have the great privilege to represent in the House of Representatives.

The October 7 service is the highlight of the foundation's annual weekend of events to honor the sacrifice of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Particularly this year, we honor the hundreds of firefighters in New York City who on September 11, 2001, gave our country what President Abraham Lincoln called the last full measure of devotion to our country. This is the very least that we as individuals and as a government can do to honor and commemorate the selfless call to duty by these brave men and to offer some small measure of comfort to their grieving families, friends, relatives, and coworkers.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to them, ourselves and posterity to ensure that their deaths shall not be in vain.

URGING SUPPORT FOR MILLER/MILLER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2646

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, tomorrow we will be debating the farm bill; and in that bill is the sugar program, which hurts workers in my district.

Since the sugar program has been in effect, employment in the confectionery industry has fallen 11 percent since 1991. The sugar program has contributed to that fall because candy-makers in Chicago, in my district, pay more than twice the world market price for sugar. As long as these supports continue and we pay this inordinate amount, we are going to lose employment and employment opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Miller-Miller amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

NOTIFICATION AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTIDISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 169) to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, and for other purposes, as amended.